GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:861
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Problem of Age Fudging
Mahajan Smt. Poonam

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the persistent problem of age fudging indulged by teenagers who participate in under-14, under-16, under-19 and under-22 sports tournaments organized in the country and abroad and if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received by the Ministry during each of the last five years, year-wise and discipline-wise;
(b) the action taken by the authorities against the offenders and the steps taken to make the age verification process of teenage sportspersons as stringent as possible; and
(c) whether the Government has adopted Tanner-Whitehouse 3 method (TW3) to determine the age of teenagers, if so, the salient features of TW-3 method and if not, the details of other methods adopted by the Government to verify the age of teenagers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)
(a) and (b): Madam, promotion and development of specific sports disciplines is mainly the responsibility of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned which are either societies or bodies corporate. The Government does not interfere in their day-to-day affairs which, inter-alia, includes holding of sports events, selection of players, age certification, etc.
The Government took cognizance of the problem of age fudging, indulged in by teenagers in age restricted tournaments way back in 2009-10 and issued guidelines named "National Code Against Age Fraud in Sports" (NCAAFS) in 2010 with a view to eliminating age fraud and ensuring fair play by sportspersons in age restricted tournaments. The NCAAFS provides for mandatory medical and scientific examination of all sportspersons participating on the first occasion for any age restricted tournament and issuing of an I-card which will remain valid for participation in subsequent events.
During the recent past, complaints regarding age fraud in the sports of Badminton, Chess and Volleyball were received. Such complaints are dealt with by the concerned NSFs in terms of guidelines issued by the Ministry and the complaints received in the Ministry are also forwarded to the concerned NSFs and SAI for taking appropriate action in terms of the guidelines in this matter. Year-wise and sport discipline-wise data is not maintained in the Ministry.
(c) As per the Code, General Physical Examination, Dental Examination, Radiological Examination/MRI/CT Scan (as applicable) are required to be conducted for determining the age range of the player. There is no specific mention of TW3 method in the code for determining the age of teenagers.
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